(b) whether the airport at Srinagar would also be brought under the programme making it fit to be declared as an international airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Keeping in view the traffic boom in Civil Aviation, revamping of airports is planned. Government has decided to upgrade the metro airports of Delhi/Mumbai through Joint Venture route. In principle decision has also been taken to upgrade the Chennai Airport under similar mode. Work on two Greenfield Airports at Devanahalli near Bangalore and at Shamshabad near Hyderabad is in progress. Government has also given in principle approval for construction of a new greenfield airport at Mopa in Goa. There are plans for construction of greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai, Chakan near Pune, Ludhiaan in Punjab, Kannur in Kerala, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kohima in Nagaland which are in preliminary stages. There are also plans to upgrade and modernise 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports in the country.

(b) Srinagar airport has already been declared as an International Airport on 11th March, 2005.

Advisors for public offerings of AI and IA

2208. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed Advisors for the proposed Initial Public Offerings of IA and AI;

(b) the terms of reference given to the advisors;

(c) whether Government are planning to go ahead in one of the routes like Employees stock option plan for divesting the stake;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have any plan to follow any other route other than (c) above; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Both the Airlines have been advised

to go ahead with the tendering process for appointment of IPO Advisors. However, the actual appointment will be done only after an 'in principle' approval of the Government is given.

(c) to (f) At the present stage, it is premature to identify the exact route that would be followed.

New navigation system

2209. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are developing a satellite-based navigation system which will help to enhance air safety while allowing more aircrafts to operate in the Indian skies simultaneously;

(b) whether any cooperation is sought from ISRO in preparing the navigation system;

(c) by when, Government are expecting prototype in this system for its demonstration; and

(d) to what extent this would help the flight safely and enhance navigation capability in the Indian airspace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Geo-positioning System and Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is being implemented jointly by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and ISRO.

(c) Technological Demonstration phase of GAGAN project is likely to be ready by June, 2006.

(d) GAGAN will provide seamless navigation over Indian airspace and in oceanic region as well, and precision approaches at all Indian airports.

Shortage of pilots

2210. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines and Air India pilots are quitting for lucrative offers from burgeoning private airline industry;